

## BIRDBROOK PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 13 May 2015 at the Community House, Birdbrook at 7.30pm.**

**Present:** Mr T R Walker Mr P Smart  
Mr S Rhenius Mr A Cook

**Clerk:** Mrs D Hilliard

### **15/31 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR 2015/16**

Chairman – Richard Walker was nominated by Steve Rhenius and seconded by Alan Cook, all in favour  
Vice-Chairman – Steve Rhenius was nominated by Alan Cook and seconded by Richard Walker.

### **15/32 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Peter Smart, unavoidably delayed

### **15/33 OTHER APOLOGIES**

None.

### **15/34 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 5 March 2015 were agreed as a correct record and signed. Proposed by Steve Rhenius and seconded by Alan Cook, all in favour.

### **15/35 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

### **15/36 COMMUNICATION AND REPORT OF THE CLERK**

*Acceptance of office forms* – were circulated by the clerk for completion.

*Cheque signatories* – It was agreed that Steve, Alan and Peter be added as cheque signatories and also to arrange issue of a debit card.

*Verge Cut* – It was agreed to continue with Simon Price for the verge cutting. The first cut should take place soon.

*EALC renewal* – Agreed.

### **15/37 DOCUMENTS ON DEPOSIT**

Noted

### **15/38 MEMBERS REPORTS**

(a) *Pond* – Mr Rook's staff have been keeping the pond area tidy. Debbie and Richard had searched the historic files to find a copy of the 99 year lease but had found nothing. Richard will contact Mr Rook to see if he can supply a copy. Debbie reported she had spoken to insurers about the pond and a copy of the lease agreement will be required.

(b) *Parks* – Nothing to report

(c) *Chairman's* – Grass cutting (other areas). The chairman suggested finding an odd-job man to come in perhaps one day a week to do any necessary work such as grass cutting, litter pick etc. A further discussion will take place at the July meeting.

*Quality Council scheme* – Birdbrook has foundation status until January 2016 under the new scheme. However, it must be a fully elected council. Regarding the council vacancies – the PC can ask for nominations for the vacancies and then vote on them. Richard suggested we put request for nominations by 30 June 2015 with a view to looking at nominations at the July meeting. Agenda for July. Alan suggested this was a challenge for the Parish Council to raise its profile in the village.

(d) *Highways* – There are problems in Mote Road and Fell Road and the road to Stambourne is very slippery where the surface has worn away. A number of potholes require attention. A Mr Brace of Station Rad has put in a petition for speed restrictions on the ECC website with a request for the 40mph are to be reduced to 30mph and extend the 40mph from Sturmer to New England. Richard is going to send all the highway issues to ECC as one document to include Mr Brace's letter.

**15/39 BT TELEPHONE BOXES**

Requests for estimates have been issued and replies are still awaited. Alan and Richard will look at the phone box with a view to carrying out the repairs. Report back to the July meeting.

**15/40 COUNTY BROADBAD PRESENTATION**

Steve reported on the County Broadband presentation which took place at the Annual Parish Assembly on 30 April. Steve will contact Buzzcom to see if they would like to make a presentation. The Parish Council agreed to proceed with a public meeting with County Broadband in June. The Clerk will organise a date with County Broadband.

**15/41 WEBSITE RENEWAL**

Agreed, Debbie will contact Carrie Webb.

**15/42 PLLANNING**

Nothing to report.

**15/43 FINANCE**

*Financial Report* – it was proposed by Steve and seconded by Alan that the latest financial report be accepted.

*Annual Accounts* – The Statement of Assurance was read out and agreed and the Chairman signed the accounts for the year ended 2015. The Clerk will submit these to the Auditor.

**15/44 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS**

Not applicable as no confidential items to discuss.

**15/45 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**

None

**15/45 NETWORK 5 GROUP**

Richard updated the new Councillors on the Network 5 group and its aims. IT was proposed that Birdbrook will not continue with the Network 5 group until the new councillors have had a chance to settle into their roles.

**15/46 TIME, DAY AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be the Annual Parish Assembly on 2 July 2015 at 7.30pm in the Community House

The date for the September meeting will be changed to Wednesday 16 September 2015.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at approximately 9.45pm

Signed: ..... Dated: .....